

Ole Karsholt (Denmark); Sjaak Koster (The Netherlands); Ernestino Maravalhas (Portugal); Kauri Mikkola (Finland); Willy de Prins (Belgium); Nils Ryrholm (Sweden); Victor Sarto i Monteys (Spain); Axel Steiner (Baden-Württembergs, Germany); Gerhard Tarmann (Austria); Jaan Viidalepp (Estonia); Rob de Vos (The Netherlands); and Alberto Zilli (Italy). I would like also to take this opportunity to thank Chris Van Swaay (De Vlinderstichting) for supplying a copy of the questionnaire used for the Red Data Book of European Butterflies and to Martin Warren (Butterfly Conservation) and Martin Honey (Natural History Museum) for their suggestions and advice.

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Early appearance of the Spring Usher *Agriopsis leucophaearia* (D. & S.) (Lep.: Geometridae) in north London (Middlesex) in January

During the morning of 25 January 2001, a mild, showery, but sunny day, my wife brought in a moth found fluttering on the wet ground in a neighbour's garden. It was a fine, fresh, male Spring Usher *Agriopsis leucophaearia*, and had obviously only recently emerged. I have not found this species previously in the area and Colin Plant (1993. *Larger moths of the London Area*. LNHS) says of it "... a widespread, but rather local resident, generally not found in the urban area of London and relatively infrequently in the suburbs". Both Plant and Bernard Skinner (1984. *Colour identification guide to moths of the British Isles*. Viking), note that the moth usually emerges from mid-February to mid-March, hence its colloquial name. As a boy, I used to find this species commonly in Clowes Wood, Warwickshire (see Hammond, H. E., 1957. A survey of the Lepidoptera of a small oak-beech wood on the Midland Keuper Marl with ecological notes on the species. *Proc. Birmingham nat. Hist. phil. Soc.* **18**(6): 147-173), but from my youthful notebooks the earliest male *A. leucophaearia* I ever found was there on 7 February (in 1948).— K. G. V. SMITH, 70 Hollickwood Avenue, London N12 0LT.